



Board Certification

SB 1184 by Senator Saunders
HB 0509 by Representative Kreegel

- Currently in the state of Florida, physicians who never participated in an emergency medicine residency or emergency medicine fellowship are permitted to become board certified in Emergency Medicine.
- This situation is the result of a Florida Board of Medicine action several years ago that granted a waiver to a physician board certification entity, the American Association of Physician Specialists (AAPS).
- AAPS is not recognized by either the American Board of Medical Specialties (ABMS) or the American Osteopathic Association (AOA) – the recognized “gold standard” of physician specialty certification agencies.
- Because of this waiver, some physicians who have never completed a residency in Emergency Medicine are now considered “board certified in Emergency Medicine,” implying equivalency with those physicians who have specialty-specific residency training and board certification.
- The Legislature has placed patient safety and quality care at the top of its health care reform agenda, which FCEP supports. Both of these issues are likely to be compromised if the realities of the practice situation can not be met with the skills required.
- FCEP is proposing a change in Florida statute which would require the Board of Medicine to limit the certifying entities which offer board certification to those that require specialty-specific residency training at an approved residency training program. This change would not be retroactive, but applicable toward future board certification applicants.

IMPORTANT: This would **not** prohibit a hospital or health service organization from employing a physician who was not residency trained or board certified, or who had received board certification through an entity which did not require specialty-specific board certification. Employment decisions would still remain locally based with the employer.